

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2002

The Honorable Tommy Thompson  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express our deep concern that a number of entities funded by taxpayers through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) sex-education and contraception programs may be misusing these public resources on lobbying, advocacy, and public relations campaigns against federal abstinence education programs.

A few weeks ago, Advocates for Youth, Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), and Planned Parenthood, among others, announced a major campaign to derail funding for abstinence-until-marriage education programs ([www.nonewmoney.org](http://www.nonewmoney.org)).

The website for this new campaign directs viewers to "contact your Member of Congress and ask that NO NEW MONEY be appropriated for the Special Projects of Regional and National Significance-Community Based Abstinence Education (SPRANS-CBAE) program when the Labor-HHS appropriations bill is considered."

On April 22, 2002, the eve of an Energy and Commerce Committee hearing on the reauthorization of abstinence education, Advocates for Youth released a news advisory saying, "Advocates for Youth also opposes continued funding of these programs." Planned Parenthood Federation of America joined in the criticism in an April 24, 2002 statement entitled, "Abstinence-Only Sex Education Is Dangerous And Irresponsible" saying, "This bill is continuing the policy of throwing good money after bad at [sic] unproven programs. . . ." ([http://www.plannedparenthood.org/About/PR/020424\\_abstin.html](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/About/PR/020424_abstin.html))

SIECUS and Advocates for Youth are both found on CDC's list of "Funded National Partners" (<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/00binaries/ataglanc2000.pdf> pg 4) and recently have appeared as speakers at a federally funded conference in April 2002 ([http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/conference/current/pdfs/final\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/conference/current/pdfs/final_agenda.pdf) SIECUS pg. 4, 49, 59, 67; AFY pg. 31, 35, 59, 60). According to the General Accounting Office, Planned Parenthood received \$125.8 million from taxpayers in fiscal year 1999 (the most recent year available) from federal sex-education and contraception programs (GAO-02-81R Federal Funds for Reproductive Health; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0281r.pdf>).

As you know, current law contained in the yearly HHS appropriations act includes the following prohibition:

**SEC. 503. (a) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress or any State legislature, except in presentation to the Congress or any State legislature itself.**

**(b) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence legislation or appropriations pending before the Congress or any State legislature.**

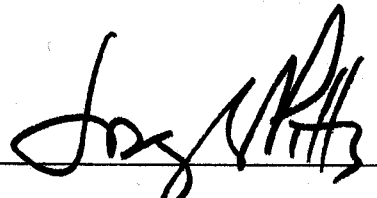
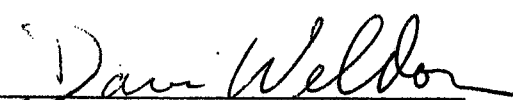
—[emphasis added] Current Law, P.L. 107-116,  
Departments of Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Act 2002 (H.R. 3061)

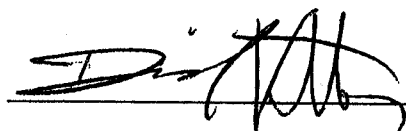
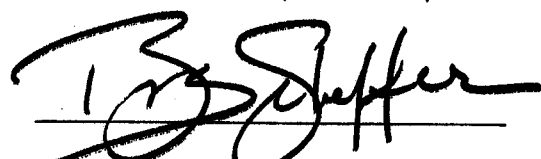
We ask the Department of Health and Human Services and its agencies to investigate (through the Inspector General, if necessary):

- 1) Whether or not any federal funds to these groups have been or are currently being used for these lobbying, advocacy, and public relations efforts.
- 2) Whether or not any federal funds have been or are currently being used to pay the salaries or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, who is working on any activity designed to influence abstinence legislation and/or appropriations pending before Congress.
- 3) Whether the organizations involved in these lobbying campaigns have separate record-keeping systems that track the hours and funds they use for and/or pay to employees working on these lobbying, advocacy, and public relations efforts.

Based on your findings in these areas, we ask that you report back as soon as possible, with written documentation, as to whether or not these organizations are in compliance with section 503 of Public Law 107-116 and/or any subsequent continuing resolution or appropriations act. We would ask that you take into consideration the actions of these groups when examining funding and grant proposals. It is important to ensure that the funds from hard-working Americans are not squandered on lobbying and public relations campaigns.

Sincerely,

Jim Flaherty

Jim Ryan

2) Cordell Alvin

Steve Chabot

Chip Pickens

~~Kevin Blawie~~

John Sullivan

Mark Souder

Chris Smith

Tom Ichniowski

John Fenech

Robert B. Adkins

Paul Lee

Lee Meyrick

Mr. W. Roddy

Jim DeMint

Pete Hostetter

Ernest Istook

Tom DeLay

~~John~~